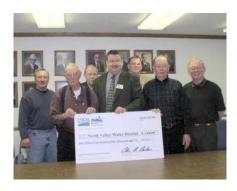
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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS FEDERAL FUNDS TO NORTH VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

"Rural area gains access to quality water."

Cavalier, ND, October 28, 2004 – The State Director for USDA Rural Development, Clare Carlson, today presented a ceremonial check for \$1,450,000 to North Valley Water District's Board of Directors, at Cavalier, North Dakota. The low-interest loan and grant from



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USDA Rural Development will benefit many rural residents in the area.

"By providing a clean and safe drinking water supply, and improving the economic infrastructure, will help bring economic growth and employment opportunities to rural areas," said Carlson. "This loan and grant from USDA Rural Development represent the commitment of President George Bush and the Bush Administration to rural America."

The funding will be used to install nearly 100 miles of pipeline and will add 114 new members to the system. The project is scheduled for completion in 2005.

More than half of the money came from USDA's Rural Development utility program, which gave the district a \$633,000 grant and an \$817,000 low-interest loan. Another \$1 million loan came from the Bank of North Dakota as part of a revolving loan fund administered in conjunction with USDA Rural Development water projects, and \$8,400 came from the applicant. Total overall project is estimated to cost \$2,458,400.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. Its mission is to deliver programs that will support increased economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. It administers financial and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development and critical community and technology infrastructure.

In Fiscal Year 2004, USDA Rural Development provided over <u>\$78 million dollars</u> in loan and grant financing to North Dakota citizens. For more information, please visit our web site at <a href="http://www.rurdev.usda.gov">http://www.rurdev.usda.gov</a>.